



Childhood Readiness and Success Team Notes January 11, 2012

Team Goal: In Carroll County, all children are ready for Kindergarten and achieve at or above grade level success by the end of third grade.

Attendance: Patty Poulin, Lara Preece, Kristin Groves, Kate Moore, Kathleen Carrier, Robin Waters, Nancy Coville, Karen Gerds, Shawna Puglia, Shana Gardner, Robin Chaffee, Lisa Wedge, Gail Yalenezian Carol DeLaurier, Cyndi Paulin

Done/Decisions:

- Set goal to get the checklist out to parents around time of the 4-year well-child check-up.
- Made some improvements to checklist with feedback from early childhood participants.
- Decided broader community meeting in Conway should be end of March/1st week April
- Decided to co-host learning day with Jeanine Fitzgerald for K-teachers and early childhood educators on April 28.

Agreed to do:

- Email contact lists you have of preschools, doctors offices, or other places to distribute the checklist to cyndi@lruw.org by Feb 3. (We'll be dividing it up at the Feb. meeting.)
- Get parent feedback about the checklist (Gail Y., Robin W. & Robin C.) by Feb. 8.

Next (February Agenda):

- Divide up contact list for Checklist Distribution to outreach to people about distributing it.
- Other next steps for reaching parents
- Conway community meeting. ID questions that would engage community.

Discussion:

Improvements to Checklist & Focus Groups

- Change title from "Readiness Checklist" to "Guidelines for preparing my child for Kindergarten."
- Take out "My child can" from each domain section. May intimidate parents and list stands fine alone without it.
- Add statement on bottom about where parents can call if they have concerns.
- Use photographs of children rather than graphics. Email cyndi@lruw.org with any photos that would work well.
- Gail Y., Robin W. & Robin C. volunteered to share the checklist with parents and get feedback to make final adjustments before printing.

Reaching out to parents/ Goal: Get checklist to parents around children's 4 year old check-up

Checklist will be most valuable if we can get it to parents 6-12 months before Kindergarten begins. If received right before Kindergarten, it could be intimidating and be too late to do much. Doctors' offices at the 4 year old well-child check would be one ideal distribution point. Saco River is interested in taking a look at it. *[Note from Kristin Groves after meeting - Dr. Badger at Memorial Hospital open to considering distributing the Readiness Definition through his office. He mentioned that Sean Rogers from White Mountain Community Health and Jackie Sparks from Children Unlimited are excellent resources for reaching the parents who often fall through the cracks.]*

Places to distribute checklist to:

- Doctor's offices/Hospitals
- Child Find
- WIC (already offered to distribute it)
- Preschools/Childcare/HeadStart/Play groups
- Libraries
- Squeaky Sneakers/Recreation Departments
- PTA/PTO

CCU will print copies for at least first year or 2. It will also be available electronically to anyone who wants to use it.

Community Meetings: Conway end March beginning of April

- CCU will be holding at least 4 community meetings around the county in the next several months and would like to begin with Conway with the primary focus of moving the early childhood learning issue forward.
- End March/first week of April would be best
- Value of early childhood learning presentation – need help to improve it. Robin Chafee and Kate Moore will take a look.
- What helps draw people?
 - Feed people. (pizza)
 - Free childcare – Kennett Key Club or early childcare program. Gail Y. will help with this. Need to have some adult contact for safety and liability.
- Reach people to attend through:
 - Radio/drivetime
 - Schools – alert now, school newsletters
 - Pre-school teachers ask parents
 - Channels used for September meeting
- Other locations for these meetings are needed. Ossipee would be a good place. (Robin C.)

K-teachers/early educators joint training with Jeanine Fitzgerald

- Childcare Resource and Referral is bringing Jeanine in on April 28; willing to partner with CCU and expand to include K-teachers as well. Only date available for this school year.
- Date is end of vacation for southern end of county. Teachers would attend high quality training at end of vacation as long as not away traveling. Great opportunity; people loved her at Coos County Child Care Summit. Go forward. Let's host it together. Jeanine will tailor learning day to include Kindergarten Readiness.

All Day Kindergarten

- Conway is considering
- Bartlett has full day, Brett is in year 1 of full day, Paul School (Wakefield) may be too, Conway El has an extended day option for past 3 years, Ossipee is piloting full-day this year.
- With changes in full day public Kindergarten, community-based programs will change.

Next Meetings: Wednesday, February 8, 6:00-7:30 pm at Conway Elementary School Library.

Carpooling is available from the CCU office in Tamworth.

Upcoming dates: March 14, April 11, May 9

Note: Recent CCU meetings have been in the northern end of the county because of high interest from those in that area. If you are living or working in the southern end of the county please let us know how we can best support you with Kindergarten Readiness as well.